

God's Rule

REVELATION 14

This section is also concurrent with the blowing of the seventh Trumpet (while all the other six are adding their blasts). *Revelation 14* describes events initiated in heaven.

: 1-5 The 144,000 group, the Firstfruits, the first to be made ready, is that of the overcomers of *Revelation 2:26-28* who were earlier pledged the "Morning Star," which is Christ's betrothal to them as Bridegroom. This is the promise given early awakeners. They are also the Manchild Firstfruits of *Revelation 12:5*, the first of men to be caught up to God's Throne, with the single exception of Jesus Christ (*Jn. 3:13, 6:27; Lk. 18:21*). They are the wise virgins received into the marriage festivities at about the midnight hour (*Matt. 25:10*). They are those who maintain faithfulness during their maturing. They make up the Queen in gold of Ophir to be brought to the King in raiment of needlework (white garments, *Ps. 45:9-14, Rev. 19:8*). Their departure triggers the Great Tribulation (*Matt. 24:50-51*).

But the "virgins, her companions that follow her," shall be brought to God's Throne at the close of the Tribulation (*Ps. 45:14-15*). These latter ones are the foolish virgins who are not completely ready at the earlier time, not fully aware of the hour of His coming. To them the Lord comes as a thief in the night (*Matt. 25:11-13*). The 144,000 group, having been sealed by both Christ and His Father prior to the seventh Trumpet, will have been separated and suddenly removed from the Church and from the physical realm and lifted into the spiritual or heavenly realm. Their physical bodies will have been instantly translated into glorified bodies.

Heretofore, it has been assumed that the 144,000 company is to be made up of exactly that number of people. This may be the correct view. However, *Revelation 12:5* specifies a Manchild. That this Manchild is identical to the 144,000 of *Revelation 14* is proven by the reference in both *Revelation 12:5,17* and *Revelation 14:4* to the firstborn and the Firstfruits. Since we know the Lord plays no favorites, we are drawn to consider references to other groups specifically described by the number of men. Twice, the Lord fed such gatherings, 5,000 and 4,000. On each occasion, it was that many men – plus women and children (*Matt. 14:21, 15:38*). Therefore, it could be that the *Revelation 14:1* company is to be made up of 144,000 men, plus whatever number of women and children are also qualified. It is an interesting, but not important point because of the qualification limits. All in the Bride company must be "virgin" to Christ.

The earthly Church, as God's servant, is to be cut in two (*Matt. 24:51*). Then a further division of the Church occurs. Those truly following Jesus Christ immediately recognize the significance of what has taken place. Therefore, without hesitation they turn to the Lord with their whole hearts and seek Him as never before. After seven

weeks of earnest petition, the Holy Spirit is poured out, sealing their dedication in a mighty deluge of power (**Joel 2:28-29**). The effect of these stunning spiritual developments divides those who truly mean business with the Lord from those who have been mere professors of Christianity. As never before, there are then clear-cut lines of demarcation between all-out Christians and those who make pretense with a form of Godliness (**II Tim. 3:5**). Then will the Church of Christ (not the Church of Christendom) go out as a mighty army to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to all nations (**Matt. 24:14**). Then will the Word be proclaimed in power, accompanied by signs, wonders and miracles (**Jn. 14:12**).

These of the 144,000 group will have been Spirit Baptized long enough for the Lord to have "proven" them. How long a proving is required differs with the individual. The Bride company's main requirement is that of an all-consuming love for Jesus, producing utter faithfulness and dedication. As a virgin, she has refused concourse with the world and its defilements. She has not turned away and become connected with any of the other "religions," such as those of the East. The Bride is pure (no off-the-plan desires remaining to tempt into contaminating responses). She must be faithful.

Not many are chosen to become the Bride. But outside the Bride function in the Kingdom are many highly important and many more somewhat less important administrative posts and priestly positions which the Bride cannot possibly hold and which *must* be filled.

The 144,000 group will be given power to feed and sustain nations during the Great Tribulation. They will be functioning in glorified bodies, with ability to appear and disappear on the earth. This is a mothering function, which will also require use of the "rod of iron." They authoritatively speak the Word of God and enforce His judgments. They will have the authority to implement God's will among the nations, and those that pay no attention will be broken in pieces as a potter's vessel (**Rev. 12:5, 2:26-27**).

In **Revelation 7:2**, we read of a sealing similar in pattern to the sealing of the Bride 144,000 group. It confirms the Lord's plan by reflecting on earth the plan established in heaven. **Revelation 7** describes the approximately concurrent sealing of His *bondslaves* on earth. None of the Bride company being joined to Christ is a bondslave. The 144,000 bondslaves are the first sealed among the Jews for the earth Kingdom service (**Jn. 8:35-36**). Then 56 days after the Bride's departure, there is yet another sealing on earth of a different picked group to initiate the Glorious Church. All these sealings are complete a year before or near the beginning of the Great Tribulation period. Of course, the sealing of the Harvest Host is accomplished during the Great Tribulation.

The specific Day of the Lord has arrived with the translation of the 144,000 group to heaven. The key is found in **Revelation 16:15**, "He comes as a thief." In **I Thessalonians 5:2**, the Day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night, so both the Lord Jesus and His Day come as a thief. He comes with the first sounding of the seventh Trumpet, but this initial coming is as a thief to break through the household of the Church and remove the Jewels (**Lk. 12:29, Mal. 3:17**). These Jewels are the 144,000 group, also the first loaf made from the grain of the Firstfruit sheaf (**Lev. 23:10,17**), and translated at the beginning of the Great Tribulation period (**Rev. 12:5**). The Lord does not openly manifest Himself at this time; it is the beginning of His 3 1/2 year parousia (approach) unseen by human eyes. But when the 144,000 group suddenly disappears, the Day of the Lord has begun and the seventh Trumpet has started to sound its call. In that Day, great will

be the spiritual power and glory made manifest through His saints who remain on earth (*Rev. 12:17*).

The Lord has been gathering together those of His saints who have made a covenant of sacrifice with Him (*Ps. 50:5*), and the gathering is two-fold. First, the gathering together into oneness with Christ results in an end-time Body “fanatically” given to Christ, which can then be trusted to go out on this earth to do exploits in His name. Secondly, it is the gathering or taking out of the Firstfruits company immediately before the time of Great Tribulation. To each it is a redemption of a kind. To the Firstfruits it is a loosing from the earthly to the heavenly realm for a ministry and an overcoming of earth’s evil from that side. In glorified bodies, they can oppose evil in the spirit realm *and* in the material realm. This is not the battle between Michael and his angels on one side, against the dragon and his host on the other side. But it becomes a continuation of the process, forcing Satan and his host out of the earth realm – as a mother would fight for those in her care. To the Body being joined together on the earth it is a loosing from certain and grave misunderstandings, limitations, weaknesses and inabilities into a ministry of power. For either gathering, we are to look up and lift our heads, since our Redemption draws near (*Lk. 21:28*).

Jesus spoke of those who are to be raised up in the last day (*Jn. 6:40,44,54*), and it is usually taken to mean the resurrection of the dead. Certainly that thought is included, but we need not limit the meaning to the resurrection. There is also a raising up from the earthly to the heavenly realm without the experience of death, a metamorphosis into the glorified body (*I Cor. 15:50-52*). Such is the experience of the Firstfruits just prior to the Tribulation, because the Lord has a work for them to do in that realm. Translating them into the heavenly realm is part of His strategy and battle plan.

Those of the Bride, the 144,000, are sealed into the group before the Great Tribulation. They are among those who already had a good start in their program of willingly following the Lamb wherever He goes. Those who make up this 144,000 group, a very small percentage of the total professing Body of Christians, will have covenanted with Jesus to forsake all and follow Him wherever He leads (*Ps. 50:5*). They will have heeded His Word, followed His way, remaining virgin to Him, not having contaminated themselves with other man-made alliances and “idols.” Therefore, God will redeem them from the earth and take them out from the midst of His people into a ministry on the other side of the veil – an entering His service both in the heavenlies and on earth in the last “Day.” Just before the Bride arrives at her new home, its whole neighborhood is cleaned up in anticipation. She is not required, or expected to immediately take up housekeeping. Neither is she sent into battle there. But after a brief rest and time for communing with her Husband, she soon takes up a protecting and contending for the earth children in her charge. They of the Bride company shall have a ministry of power not limited by what they have known before in earthly weaknesses and inabilities. These are a Firstfruits to God, fully liberated from all limitations of the flesh into an end-time ministry of power. This group is the “Standard” raised up at the crucial moment for His people to follow when the enemy comes in like a flood (*Isa. 59:19*). It is a “Standard” of glorified ones who will also be used to oppose all evil among humans so as to progressively bind and cast down the satanic forces which influence the minds of men.

Satan’s casting out has been and is progressive:

1. Out of the heavenly “Eden,” where he walked with God (*Ezek. 28:13-14*).

2. From the upper or outer Kingdom when Jesus overcame him and was then resurrected.

3. Out of the New Jerusalem environs of the stratosphere (*Rev. 12:7-10*).

4. Out of the atmosphere and off earth's surface, to be bound in the pit (*Ezek. 28:8-9, Rev. 20:2*).

From their vantage in the atmospheric heavenlies where Satan then still operates, and with the new-found powers of their glorified bodies, they of the Bride company shall be able to strike a disabling blow to the forces of Satan. They will disseminate Truth in purity and prove it to be Truth. They shall be particularly effective where and when the enemy sends out floods of deceit to engulf and consume the people on earth (*Rev. 12:15-16*). This glorified Firstfruits company shall be in charge of the elements of the earth and the forces of nature to control them, for helping those under the attack of the enemy (*Rev. 11:6*). They are redeemed from the earth to stand before the Son of Man and be commissioned for duty among the saints yet on earth during the Great Tribulation. At the same time, the Lord will empower His end-time Body still on earth to go forth and press the battle for Truth from this side of the veil. Great victories will be won for Him, because of the help and protection of the glorified ones on the other side. The beast ruler whom Satan incarnates or controls should have become apparent shortly before the Bride is taken (*II Thess. 2:3-4*). Also an appalling sacrilege will be seen in one or more holy places shortly before she is translated into the heavenlies. Just after the Bride is taken, Michael and his angels cast Satan out of the heavenlies above the atmosphere and then the battle continues on the lower plane. It is the pattern we should also see in each man, in whom the heavenlies is the ruling throne room of the mind. After Satan's influence is cast out from there, the conflict continues in the lower members, until there is the complete expulsion.

:6-11 God's message to earth during the Great Tribulation is to all people and all nations. It is the time of announcing a new message for all who will hear. It is the introduction to the Gospel of the Millennium. It is the open proclamation of the good news of age-lasting well-being (Literal translation). In other words, it is the good news of immortal physical life on earth (*Jn. 6:58, Rev. 14:6*).

Turn to the Creator, Jesus Christ and worship Him, not what man's systems hold out as idols. If you are one of these who would follow wherever He leads, turn to Him totally. Be subject wholly to His rule. All that is of man, his systems, his organizations, his religion, will fall. All things are to be shaken until *only* that which is from God is left standing (*Hag. 2:6, Isa. 2:12, Heb. 12:26-27*). The prophetic 430 year period of *Ezekiel 4* for the first release from the limitations of the Reformation churches is over (approximately $1555 + 430 = 1985$). Also the training period into fruitfulness for the Church in the wilderness is ending (40×10 for the world). It is time for all now to enter into the Promised Land, all who place the Lord ahead of everything else.

Anyone and everyone who continues to give his mind or hand to support the coming World Government (it will be supported by churches of the world) by either exercise of his will, or by permissively being drawn in to participate in support, will be separated from God, lose his physical life, see his soul die and experience a nakedness for his spirit. Anyone who will continue to take Jesus *totally* as his example will not see physical death at all. Many who are not glorified will continue to live throughout the

Millennium and beyond in the same physical body.

The world rulers and their subjects will hate the proclaimers of God's message, particularly since their words will be undeniably confirmed by the authority and power of God in signs and wonders far greater than those used by Jesus (*Jn. 14:12*). Those on earth who have been prepared will be doubly hated with a fervent hatred, because their voices will be particularly effective and no man can stop them. Great will be the Light they spread into the great darkness, under God's complete empowerment and protection (*Ps. 91*). Many will hear and see and turn around to accept Jesus Christ as Savior and as Lord. Quickly then will they see the power of the beast system start to fall apart and, in the anguish of fear and hatred, nations fall upon each other with all the weapons they can muster. Then will God cut the times short so all flesh does not perish (*Matt. 24:22*).

Beyond this period of total, intolerable anguish on earth for those who take on the inscription of the beast in their foreheads or in their hands, is another lesson toward righteous response, this one in the soul-world or Hades. The "torment with fire and brimstone" in the literal and derivative translation of the Greek words presents the thought of application of pressure, in order to bring a true confession or confession of Truth. Here the pressure of the "torment" is like that applied by the touchstone as it is used on precious metals to learn of their purity. The word for brimstone is derived from one relating to the thought of god-like, probably associated with the idea of flashing.

So both word-pictures of brimstone and fire relate to the purifying action of God through His Spirit. The Spirit-monitored environment applies the pressure. The brimstone is not meant to picture a raging furnace containing molten metal and sulphur. When the flashing Life-Force of the Lord reverses on the people, the body dies and the soul dissipates (*Isa. 40:7*). When the consuming of the refuge of lies is complete and there is nothing more to disintegrate, the smoke stops. The "forever (time without end) and forever" (another time without end) is a terribly inaccurate translation by a power-hungry Church system. The "torment" is merely said to be "no rest." The objective of applying continuous pressure and consuming the contamination is to bring the then naked human spirit back to God (*Eccles. 12:7*). *Every* knee shall bend to Him and *every* tongue shall confess. God takes the man needing this lesson into it in love. It is so that good might result for him, instead of allowing harm to be perpetuated.

: 12-13 Many who have been prepared and have elected the greater glory of voluntarily giving their lives for the Gospel will be martyred in the Great Tribulation, just as Jesus Christ gave up His life for the greater good. But they will then rest in His blessing, until the host of His dedicated followers are taken up to meet Him in the clouds at the Tribulation's end (*Rev. 6:9-11*).

: 14 His unseen presence is in mid-air, in the clouds, in the heavens surrounding the earth (*I Thess. 4:17*), during the whole Tribulation period. He has the golden crown on His head, indicating ruling authority with full spiritual power (golden). The sickle of harvest is that of Truth which goes forth in power in this last day. It is the Word which God sends forth with power and authority, through vessels specially prepared and made ready for this hour by Him to be used as instruments for His purpose. And that Word shall not return without accomplishing His purpose.

There is a time of sowing and a time of reaping. The Lord has prepared and waited

patiently for this day, as a farmer waits and works for the harvest of his crops. The harvest of the earth is over-ripe and the sickle shall be put in to reap. The sickle of Truth will bring forth a harvest at the same time that the sickle of iniquity is doing its work – one bringing a great harvest of righteousness into life and the other a great harvest of destruction into loss and death.

: 15 Apparently, it is the High Father who determines the specific timing from His higher position, and then sends an angel with His message to the Lord Jesus Christ in the earth's atmospheric environment.

: 16 Multitudes will turn to the Lord to become the great harvest into life, for they shall seek Him with their whole heart and He will cause them to know His ways. The good seed was sown by the Son of Man, and the harvest is the consummation and fulfillment of all for which He prepared and worked. Now it will come to fruition. And glorious will be this day, as the Lord sees maturity in the many vessels He has further prepared as instruments with which to reap the harvest of the earth.

Initially, the Firstfruits, who have been especially prepared by and for the Lord, shall be cut out of the harvest field of the earth in this end-time and taken by Him into His heavenly realm. Then the main harvest work will begin. Those who have been left to do the harvest work are the remainder of the Woman's seed, the founders of the Glorious Church, as well as those who adequately mature during the Great Tribulation. All these will be received by the Lord at the close of the age when the harvest work is done (*Rev. 12:17, Lev. 23:17,22*). The heavenly Firstfruits shall help the reapers prepare for their first assignment, covering and protecting them, speaking with them, teaching and counseling so they will be empowered for their work and fortified against all which would come against them. The Harvest presented at the close of the Great Tribulation is of all who completely trust in Jesus. But not all Christians even then will be ready to be taken up to meet Him when He returns for His saints. In the Lord's plan, there is more than one "coming" at His return (*Lev. 23:10,17-22; Matt. 13:39; Lk. 14:17-24; Mal. 3:16-18; Mk. 13:35-37; Lk. 12:37-40; I Cor. 15:20-23*). He comes as a thief, but also *"...every eye shall see Him..."* (*Rev. 1:7*).

Only those fully sanctified (separated) to Him by a complete work of the Holy Spirit will be ready for entrance into the heavenly Kingdom (*Matt. 5:8*). These are the proven 100-fold or full-grain-in-the-ear Christians (*Mk. 4:20,28*). In the field, the grain matures progressively, not all on one day. There are those who will not yet be ready and ripe to be plucked out of the earth and gathered into the heavenly Kingdom. Those believers not yet then ready are the 60-fold (the ear) Christians and the 30-fold (the blade) "believers" (*Mk. 4:28*) who will remain on earth after the period of the Great Tribulation closes, to enter the age of the Millennium Kingdom and become the nations of the replenished earth. They are offered protection during the times of trouble so they may continue to grow and ripen into the maturity which the Lord has planned. They shall be left in the field of the earth to continue in what the Lord has chosen for them (*Lev. 23:22*), and there they will learn how to enter into earthly immortality during the Kingdom Age.

Elisha was left behind when Elijah was caught up (*II Ki. 2:12*). A few of these left on earth, like Elisha, will see their companions going up with the host of prepared ones to be with the Lord, themselves remaining behind. Those few Christians of the 60-fold who are left will immediately pick up the "mantle" or power of those who go up as they

are glorified and removed from sight. A few left behind, having fulfilled the requirements, will "cross Jordan on dry ground," and enter into earthly immortality to exercise the power granted those who have deathless physical bodies.

However, not all will even then be ready for exercising the opportunity offered. Readiness will take time and further preparation for most. Only a handful of 60-fold Christians "ripened" during the Great Tribulation will be ready to enter into physical immortality when the Harvest host is taken up. But they shall be forerunners of what will become the common inheritance of all who walk uprightly before the Lord during the great Millennium of peace and beyond. As time goes on, many more will enter into deathless physical life on earth, as was originally intended for man. Those will then continue to live without death for hundreds of years, even thousands, until the time comes for them to be translated from the earthly to the heavenly (*Isa. 65:20*).

The Lord will dwell in the midst of the people within the earthly Kingdom through His glorified body of saints. Those who are joined with Him in the heavenly Kingdom will give constant teaching, guidance and counsel in the earth Kingdom. In that day, the truth, known now to but few, will be openly made known concerning the requirements for entrance into immortality in human flesh. And that truth will be the Gospel or good news which shall be preached in that age. The earth shall subsequently become populated with a people who know no death, or disease, or suffering of any kind.

: 17-19 Again note, there is more than one harvest concluding the Great Tribulation season. There is the harvest that results from the planting of God's righteous seed of truth, and there is the harvest which comes from seed which the enemy has planted (*Isa. 26:19-21; Matt. 13:26,27,39*). At the same time that truth will be harvested with Truth, iniquity will be harvested by iniquity. Reapers from the wicked lands of godlessness will be raised up and given the sickle of destruction with which they will then reap a great harvest. The planting of the enemy is coming into its fullness. The harvest of iniquity is almost ripe, so the vine of the earth will be harvested and cast into the winepress of Almighty God's wrath. Communism has been raised up for this very hour to become that sickle, even as is symbolized in Russia's banner. Russia will be used as an instrument in the Lord's hand to reap the harvest of iniquity throughout the world with killing and destruction. Then the sickle itself will be destroyed in the very act of its use, being cast into the furnace of the Lord's righteous indignation. After being used for His purpose, it will have no further purpose or application in His plan.

: 20 What is the meaning of the turmoil and conflict now building in the Middle East? All nations are being gathered either against or toward Jerusalem (*Zech. 12:2,3,9, 14:2; Isa. 29; Jer. 12:14*). The stage has been set for the final conflict, when multitudes will be brought to the Valley of Decision for judgment (*Joel 3:9-14*). The nations are now beating their plowshares into swords and instruments of war, and all the mighty men of war are being awakened. Christians are not to be deluded by overtures for peace or even seeming settlement among those in conflict in the Middle East. Any quietings shall be temporary. What seethes underneath shall yet break out in total and final war. The flare-ups of mid-1967 and 1973 were but warnings that the final vortex of inescapable conflict is drawing near. The June 6, 1982, move into Lebanon against the PLO opened the prelude to World War III.

By fire and blood, God will plead with the nations to prepare for the returning King. He declared that He would set His hand a second time to return the remnant of Jacob

(*Isa. 11:9-12*). That was fulfilled realistically in 1948. But we are also told that there was not only to be the return of Judah, but also that Jerusalem would be released from captivity (*Joel 3:1*). Not until the summer of 1967 was that fulfilled. That the gathering of the nations against Jerusalem follows closely is indicated by the next verse (*Joel 3:2*). At that time, the Lord will sit in judgment upon those nations (*Zech. 2:4-13*). God will raise up an "ensign" to the nations from afar. And the ensign will hiss to those from the end of the earth (*land* would be better), that they might come speedily to fight against Jerusalem (*Isa. 5:26*). It is the desire to change the borders of Israel which draws the nations.

The ensign which draws the nations is the star of David fluttering over the new territory annexed to Israel in 1967. God raised up the ensign by working through people and that work saw the realization of God's will. Despite the protest of the U.N., the raging of the Arab peoples and the threats of the Big Powers, the ensign shall continue to hiss its call to the nations. It is not a Vietnam, nor a Sino-Russian border problem, nor an Afghanistan, nor an Iran, which will throw the nations into final battle. Jerusalem and territories within 190 miles of it shall furnish the sparks which will ignite the lethal flames as the Big Powers converge.

Daniel was informed that there would be 2300 evenings and mornings until the Sanctuary would be cleansed, following a description of the successes of Alexander the Great in Palestine (*Dan. 8:14*). Alexander sliced through Palestine in about 332 B.C. Within a few years, a dynasty was established, ruling the land of Palestine. And so the 2300 years reach into the return of Jerusalem to the Jews in 1967. In 320 B.C., Ptolemy I captured, and then contaminated Jerusalem; 2300 years later reached into the 1980's decade.

Here in *Revelation 14:20* we are told about the harvesting judgment and the winepress flowing out blood 1600 furlongs or stadia. The Greek word for furlong means only "that which has been established." In this case, by context, it refers only to the 182 mile radius centered on Jerusalem during the two weeks following the rapture of the Harvest company. Of course, the pattern may also apply in part to the last 22 months of the Tribulation. The distance from Jerusalem to Port Said in Egypt, and into most of Lebanon, is 1600 Roman stadia.

Nevertheless, a 1600 day period of testing should be considered. The termination of the age certainly follows months and years of special testing for faithfulness to the Lord's plan for man's well being – maximum testing. The number of testing for fruitfulness is 40; maximum testing for fruitfulness on earth is represented numerically by the square of 40 – 1600. It would be reasonable to anticipate the use of that many days or years prior to the Lord's personal return to prove national and personal choice.

Rome accepted Christianity in 313 A.D. There were problems, but it became the State religion throughout the Empire in 381 A.D. Somewhere between those dates, blood commenced to flow, touching the "horse bridles" (the horse bridles refer to government). Therefore, incidental to orders by the State in connection with the Church of Christ (Christian principles of conduct adopted by government), blood would flow during 1600 years. From 313 A.D., 1600 years takes us to the opening of World War I. But by the same measure from 381 A.D., we see blood should cease flowing later. We must remember that Bible prophecy often uses rounded off numbers.

Since God's manifestation number to man is in the ratio of 100 to 1, there is the real possibility of the 1600 years reducing to 16 years which would apply to the intensive shedding of blood over that particular distance out from Jerusalem. It was the Day of Atonement War in October 1973 that initiated a more intense shedding of blood from the Sinai on into Lebanon. An added 16 years also reach into the final half of the 1980's decade. And, finally, we shall almost certainly see a 1600 day period preceding the cataclysmic wind-up of the battle between the "titans," a period having special fulfillment between Israel and the Arab nations. That many days encompass four years and about four and one-half months, pre-dating the start of the Great Tribulation about one year. This blood flow during 1600 days is described as being outside the city. That would be followed by blood flowing inside the city during the more intense phase of the third World War, tapering off again outside the city.

Natural Israel did have access to the true Faith, but that people erred greatly, failing to accept their awaited Messiah. For that, they were cut off. Although the days before them are black indeed, yet the flag of David shall remain over the land. They have been fished from out of the nations, and now they are being hunted and will be hunted by the nations (*Jer. 16:15-16*). It seems almost fantastic that the people as a nation should fail to perceive the truth of the words of Jesus and recognize the underlying cause for their 19 centuries of calamities (*Matt. 27:25*). But the Lord foresaw that world Jewry would not repent until the time approaches for His return, perhaps not until He actually has returned (*Matt. 23:37-39*). Their "seeing Him" refers not only to His bodily presence, but also to recognition of His true identity. But then He will embrace the sons of Jacob, for, at the Lord's return, He will cleanse their blood which had not been cleansed (*Joel 3:21*).

After the remnant of the Jews has returned to Palestine, the Gentiles (nations) will be gathered into battle in the Valley of Jehoshaphat, where the Lord will plead with them for His heritage, Israel. That will be Jacob's hour of greatest trouble (*Jer. 30:1-10*). Then a multitude of Christian Jews will pant for their Redeemer and cry aloud for the sudden return of their Savior. He will hear them and quickly return. But this will not take place until all hope seems lost.

The sun will be darkened and the moon turned to blood (*Joel 2:31-32*). Certainly there will be a literal fulfillment, but symbolically the sun represents Christendom and the moon represents both the Jews and the Moslems (their calendars are based on the lunar cycle). Therefore, Jerusalem and an area enclosed by a radius of almost 200 miles in any direction shall flow with human blood as never before.

Once more the house of Jacob will be divided into two camps. The government of Israel will go communist (an abomination in the Holy Place), but probably not until the Israelis suffer a defeat at the hands of Arabs backed by the Russians. The split now is between "hawks and doves." The doves are communist and fellow travelers. Communism will quickly take over the country, as the dove leaders (part of Judah) join the communists. But, later, communism will be thrown out. Before Armageddon, the dove leaders will flee the country because of the conditions which will develop (*Zech. 14:13-14*). One camp will remain in Jerusalem, assisted by Christendom. The other camp, as communists, will join the Russian-led hordes fighting against Jerusalem.

And the sun of Christendom will be turned into darkness (*Rev. 2:4-5*). That will be spiritual Israel's most tragic hour. Many of its cities will be blacked out at night and

death will fill those lands. This is the lot of Christendom, because its peoples have gone "modern," even as ancient Israel turned its back on its Redeemer. What today's Christendom is doing and permits will not go unpunished. Our Lord is determined to cleanse the Sanctuary before He sets up His Kingdom – and the scouring will not be too pleasant (*Isa. 1:19-22*).

The nations shall be gathered into battle to uphold or to conquer Jerusalem, but the winepress is trodden outside the city. The blood shall flow *outside* the city as high as the horses' bridles. The horse is the symbol of the power to make war and a bridle is used to control, hold back and regulate the power of the horse (*II Ki. 19:28*). In this symbolism, government is being pictured. This bridle of government is to be an instrument (in the control of Russia) in staying, for a time, the angry stampede of nations into war. The bridle is the United Nations organization which is yet to become effective. But the ability to hold back the conflict cannot last, except for a short time (*Rev. 17:10*).

The Lord is weary of holding in and He has determined that all nations shall drink of the wine of His fury (*Lk. 12:49, Jer. 25:15-16, 26-29*). He has determined that the very instrument in which the nations have placed their trust to maintain peace shall precipitate them into war. That bridle in the jaws of the nations shall cause them to err (*Isa. 30:27-28*). Almost everywhere there seems to be faith that the U.N. will be instrumental in saving our peace – in spite of the record. Remember Korea, Vietnam, Tibet, Algeria, Angola, Somaliland? What about the seizure of the Suez Canal in 1956? How well did the U.N. prevent hostilities in the Middle East during 1967 and 1973 and later in Lebanon? And there are many other instances – Afghanistan, most of Africa, etc.

These are the days when the "breach of His people" has been and is being "bound up." It is the restoration of the nation of Israel to Palestine (*Isa. 30:26-28*). God says here that in the latter days, when again He binds up the breach of His people, He will be *very* angry and His lips filled with indignation. It is then that the nations shall be sifted with the sieve of vanity. The "sieve" of conceit and futility and its sifting is certainly the straining in the U.N. sessions. And the U.N. is the only international body which can be termed a bridle or guiding tool in the mouth of the peoples of nations. This bridle, the Lord says, will lead the people into trouble, because of their vanity (emptiness, profaneness, unholiness). Yet the U.N. conceit, worthlessness and deceit will bring about the Lord's objective in assembling the nations into conflict against one another, filling up their wickedness so that He may devour them with the fire of His tongue. Yet God has left no stone unturned to warn, counsel and guide all of Christendom. Nevertheless, in self-conceit we have set up a magnificent monument of vanity or profanity to speed us into Armageddon – the U.N.

The U.N. came into being, fathered by the spirit of Christendom and mothered by the impact of two world wars which oppressed the national soul. Yet the U.N., as a son of Christendom, has within it the sure seeds of betraying the lands of Christendom (which brought about its being) into the hands of the beast of communism. (One of the avowed aims of the U.N. is to remove Christ from the nations' thinking.) Prior to that, the U.N. is a favored son, handsome and popular among the people. It makes much of its peace missions and its willingness to resolve problems. It is especially active in intervention where western bloc nations are involved and yet conspicuously inactive when eastern bloc nations are engaged.

We have seen the reigns of Saul ("asked for") and David ("beloved") and Solomon

(“peace”) as prophetic previews. The historic developments affecting God’s people in ancient Israel were under the Law (by their almost studied rebellion, they asked for its regulation). The developments in Christendom (the beloved of the Father) and its successes in blanketing the western world were typed by David’s reign. And the experiences of the age of the Millennium will be in an environment of peace, typed by Solomon’s reign.

In the concluding period of David’s reign, his son Absalom wormed his way into favor with many of the people, not by doing so much for them, but by smooth talk about what he would do if he had the authority. In the course of time, he had stolen the hearts of the men of Israel (*II Sam. 15:1-6*). He became the secretly admired man of the realm. When he thought he had enough backing, he organized a revolt against his father and would have killed him. But David, who served the living God, was made aware of the plot and withdrew from the capital to gain time and to get his forces organized. In the ensuing battle, the Handsome Prince was defeated and got hung up between two branches of a tree (*II Sam. 18:9*).

Absalom was the issue of David’s marriage with Maacah, a foreign, devil-worshipping woman. The U.N. is the issue of the uniting of the nations of Christendom to socialism, which leads into communism, although God forbade His people to marry God-rejecting, Christ-rejecting women. This unlawful union brought forth a prince so very handsome to look upon, but who abounds in idle chatter and traitorous connivings in his maturity. Absalom means “father of peace,” but the peace and prosperity planned by the U.N. and the means of its realization have nothing in Jesus Christ. Having nothing in common with our Lord Jesus Christ, it will prove as traitorous as Judas.

For years now, we have seen the U.N. (Absalom) coming with fanfare to the courts of Christendom, wooing the complainers. “If only we had been given the authority to settle your problem.” So more resolutions are passed – to which no one pays much attention. But the time is at hand when the nations will be in problems of such intensity that they will be glad to authorize the U.N. to take on a reign of power. For a brief moment the people will be behind the move. And in that time, “Absalom” would murder his father, taking over absolute rulership of Christian nations, and delivering them into the image of the beast of communism – if it were not for God’s backing the David nations of Christendom with a few valiant men. It will be the Glorious Church, sent out to call and prepare Christians in many lands, who will be instrumental in wrecking the U.N. The conclusion is shown by Absalom hung by his abundant head of hair (multitudes of people) in the clefted branch of the oak (probably England and the USA).

But Absalom’s failure and death placed Adonijah next in line for the throne. Absalom (father of peace) fails to bring in peace, because he seeks it through his own shrewdness, and without the blessing of Almighty God. Only through Jesus Christ alone can peace be realized in a war-torn earth. And so the U.N.’s abortive attempt shall fail. Then there is to be a second attempt to seize control over the Christian nations. But first the servants of David (politicians in Christian nations) try to liven up weakening and decrepit David (Christendom) and quicken his pulse by bringing in the beautiful Shunammite Abishag. Abishag means “father of error.” Shunem means “quietness” or “resting place” (peace). However, David had no communion with her, being too old and impotent to court or capture peace through his own prowess and virility. On its own and without God, Christendom will not be able to reach its ideal and *idol*. It can

gain no peace for which it is just too cowardly to fight. Old and debilitated Christendom will again seek to rally to world leadership through its servants, the politicians – and not be able. The painted picture of world peace shall utterly fail to revitalize Christendom – as long as the Prince of Peace is rejected in but lip service to Christ and as long as there is spine-lessness for truth and righteousness.

The second attempt to seize control over the Christian nations comes through Adonijah, a half brother of Absalom. This second attempt shall come by an organization related to the U.N., but formed later. It may be NATO, or conceivably some other organization not yet set up. But Adonijah also fails to attain his goal. And his very pleading to have the beautiful Shunammite (peace) for himself brings his own death (*I Ki. 2:24*).

Christendom approaches the end of its road. Now Solomon is being prepared to take over. Too long have men in error sought for an elusive “pot of gold” at the end of a rainbow. The very desire for peace has fostered error in conduct, trying out this and that form of government and philosophy and appeasement – the wanderings in the error of the Shunammite. Not yet has all that quite been exhausted. Still, when *all* else fails, Christian peoples will turn to the very foundation of peace, Christ our Lord, and Solomon’s reign will begin. There in the cauldron of Armageddon, the fault of sinful union with godless communism will become evident and repented of. Then shall Almighty God come in flaming fire to put an end to man’s insane efforts to annihilate all life on earth. But what a great and tragic price we must first pay for our willful rejection of God’s plan for man’s maturing and well-being!

In its first application, the blood reaching to the horse’s bridle *outside* Jerusalem is the United Nations holding back the blood-letting of war for a time. In the second application, it is the United Nations becoming embroiled in war through its member nations taking sides and pitting themselves against one another when the final showdown comes in the Middle East. Since a house divided against itself cannot stand, the United Nations organization shall collapse in the day of final reckoning. *It* is the wall daubed with untempered mortar or whitewash and, in the day of storm, it shall not stand (*Ezek. 13:10-15*).

The untempered mortar, which will not allow the wall to adhere and protect, represents the blasphemous nations of communism which have been taken into the United Nations, treacherous and completely unreliable. When it suits their interests, they will abandon their deceitful words of peace and arms reduction and launch a full-scale invasion of the Middle East, their strength secretly accumulated in a superiority in armaments. Until that day nations truly interested in peace with justice will continue to err by participating with the communists in the U.N. But the act of invasion will trigger division between east and west which will quickly develop into the gathering of all nations into the final conflict symbolically named “Armageddon” (*Rev. 16:16*). Then the bodily return of Jesus Christ will climax the defeat of the eastern bloc forces with the awesome firepower of atomic energy (*Acts 1:11; Zech. 14:1-5; Rev. 16:17-21, 19:15; II Thess. 1:7-8*).

Consider again the pattern in the Word of God. Before judgment was ready to fall on the nation of the Jews in the days following their rejection of the testimony given through the Apostles, believers had been given a warning sign by Jesus that they should flee Jerusalem and Judea (*Lk. 21:20-22*). The armies which surrounded Jerusalem in

those days were Roman legions sent to execute the Lord's vengeance on a people which had rejected His witness. In like manner, it will be fulfilled again at the close of this dispensation, for the Lord has determined to once again pour out His fury on those who have been stiff-necked and unwilling to receive His Word. Therefore, once more, armies will encompass Jerusalem, but this time they will be the armies of the nations which have completely fallen into the maw of the bear, Russian communism (the same beast of iron as was Rome).

Note this word! When the nations that today encircle the people of Israel are fully prepared for war, people everywhere can know that their days are numbered. This is the sign the Lord gives that vengeance is about to fall, not only upon the people of Israel, but upon all nations of the earth. The call is to flee to the mountains, but a mountain is a symbol of a kingdom. Only those willing to flee into the Kingdom of Jesus Christ to take refuge under His sovereignty shall escape the desolation that is coming.

Before Egypt was overcome by the Assyrian armies, the Lord gave a three year warning of the day of His vengeance (*Isa. 20:1-6*). The night of the past 1900 years is far spent, and the third day, the day of vengeance, is again at hand (*Jn. 9:4*). And what is the day of vengeance but the day of the Lord's retribution on all of His enemies? He shall rise in His day with fury against all who have refused to give heed to His Word – as He presented it. His fury is *not* primarily against the heathen who have had little opportunity to know the Truth, but against people who have. Christendom, which is spiritual or replacement Israel, is necessarily included with physical Israel. Both have been rebellious and self-willed. Because of unwillingness to heed the pure Word spoken to them, vengeance is about to descend upon the nations of Christendom. Therefore, they shall feel the impact of the instrument chosen and raised up by the Lord for this purpose.

The instrument of the Lord's indignation upon the "Egypt" world of today is to be an "Assyria" again, for He conforms all things to the pattern and will re-fulfill the initial basic pattern (*Isa. 10:1-7*). Once more, "the Assyrian" shall come against the worshippers of the true God to take the spoil and tread down the peoples. Many nations of western Christendom shall be overrun by the forces of "the Assyrian" during the day now opening.

And who is the Assyrian today? The Assyrian power is the nation of Russia and the nations allied with Russia. Assyria means "successful conquest." Just as the ancient Assyria was a coalition of smaller kingdoms which were forged together into a mighty empire, so was/is modern Russia of today. Today the former and yet to be communist confederation is the modern Assyria which shall come against the lands of Christianity (spiritual Israel).

Thus shall be brought forth just what the Lord has purposed for this day, a day of both darkness and light. The darkness shall be dense and the forces of vengeance raised up by the Lord will come in like a flood against the lands of Christendom. But it will also be a day of great light as He puts his final stratagem into motion. That stratagem also is to raise up a people to demonstrate His glory in His Day, a people who will go out to bring a mighty deliverance in the earth. Even now people are being prepared who will walk in His ways and be used as a mighty instrument in His hands. Just as there is to be an instrument of vengeance, so also there is an instrument of vindication

for His righteousness and holiness. The vindication shall be through a people who shall be a glory to His name.

Then no longer will His name be a reproach among the nations, and no longer will that which the Lord has decreed go unheeded and unfulfilled. Out of Zion (the New Jerusalem above) shall go forth the deliverers who shall turn the ungodliness from Jacob and bring repentance to His people. The Lord will not be satisfied; His soul will not know the fullness of His desire, until He has magnified Himself on earth and all men have seen His glory. Out of Zion shall His righteousness be vindicated. And on earth, He shall publish the purity of His Word for this day through people who shall not be turned aside, as was Christendom, but who shall go through the fire for His name's sake.

As a result, the Assyrian shall then be turned back, and shall return to his own land. However, the destruction will be great as the arm of the Assyrian is being broken and the power of his might destroyed. Then the fury of the Lord will also be against His instrument of vengeance; He will turn back the Assyrian into his own land, break his bow and destroy his weapons of warfare (*Ezek. 39:1-7*).

The day now dawning shall then develop to brightness; righteousness shall begin to flourish and peace shall flow as a river as the vindicating arm of the Lord ends the scourge on people. The Standard of the Lord is to be lifted up in people of His glory. And the presence of the Lord will begin to heal the wounds of the earth. His fullness shall hover over the earth as the glorious work toward His purpose begins to find its full realization.

Take heed to what the Lord speaks in this hour, for the New Day has begun to dawn and the vindicating arm of the Lord is beginning to move. There will be vengeance against all His enemies, retribution against all His foes, but there shall be the fullness of deliverance for those who do place total trust in the Lord. Let *nothing*, absolutely nothing, deter you from the practice of clinging solely to Him in *every* situation each day!

Ending of the Age

The Climax

REVELATION 15

Chapter 15 pictures the Harvest host in heaven and the heavenly preparations for pouring out God's final wrath on and the destruction of all that comprises the systems and organizations of man (Babylon). The third Woe of the Bowls of Wrath is connected with the blowing of the seventh Trumpet (*Rev. 11:14-15*), but it comes at the close of the sounding, not at its inception. The seventh Trumpet blows for 3 1/2 years while all the preceding six Trumpets are also consummating their soundings. The first and second Woes are fulfilled in the events which result from the sounding of the fifth and sixth Trumpets, but the third Woe is reserved until the very end of the age, when the seventh Trumpet delivers its final blast.

When the final blast of the seventh Trumpet is sounded, the kingdoms of the world are become the Kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ (*Rev. 11:15*).

Two things are required:

1. Those who make up His glorified Body to rule with Him over kingdoms of the earth will have had to be received by Him into the heavenly Kingdom.

2. All opposition to His rule on earth must have been reduced to the minimum so that He will be received by people who are all crying out for His rule, and who will welcome His return to take up the reins of government. Only in this manner can His wrath, which is against the rebellious, be ended.

At the close of the 1260 days of Great Tribulation, just before the seven Bowls of Wrath are poured out on the earth, the final sounding of the seventh Trumpet will vibrate to the pitch of those who are to be resurrected to glorified life and the "dead *in Christ*" shall be raised (*I Thess. 4:16*). Immediately, the living saints who have made themselves ready will also respond to the trumpet's call and be transported to meet the Lord in the air (*I Thess. 4:17*). Without further delay, the seven Bowls of Wrath are then quickly poured out, fulfilling the third Woe. However, there is a difference between the end-time judgments that take place in the longer end-time period under the six Trumpets, and the final wrath poured out in fury and indignation from the seven Bowls.

The Trumpet judgments are remedial, designed to bring warning and incline the hearts of many to righteousness. Coupled with the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit, they work to move great numbers to repentance and to bring their "birth" into the Kingdom. But the final Bowls of Wrath are designed to sweep the earth clean of all residual rebellion and wickedness. When these Bowls begin to pour, for most there will not be enough time remaining for working out a repentance (*Jer. 8:17-20; Isa. 55:5-6, 64:7*;

Amos 8:12; Zeph. 2:2-3). All who have not cried out to their God during the Great Tribulation period will risk being destroyed in the judgments of the seven Bowls (*Jer. 13:13-17, 14:10-13; Rev. 11:18; Acts 3:23; II Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 16:15*).

: 1 The nations are angry at God's interference, superimposing His plans on theirs; therefore, God's wrath is come. The plagues in the seven Bowls, the final judgments, fill up the wrath of God and completely express it, climax it and end it (*Ezek. 7*). The seven angels are instructed to go and pour out all seven upon the whole earth (*Rev. 16:1*). However, the seven Bowls of Wrath come only after all the saints who have adequately prepared themselves are translated and caught up to be with the Lord.

: 2-4 All the Harvest host, having overcome the beast, his mark and his system, is seen standing beside the calm and peace of the glassy sea upon which there are no waves of confusion from the winds of wrong doctrine, and in which there is the constant working of the fire of the Holy Spirit. They are heard singing the "Song of Moses, the servant of God, and the Song of the Lamb." It is an identification with the prophetic fulfillment of their deliverance. The Song of Moses was sung by the Israelites (prophetically picturing spiritual Israel) *after* they had been *completely* delivered out of bondage to Egypt (a type of the world order) and from the death power of Pharaoh (a type of Satan). In a similar development on the Great Day of the Lord, He will deliver a great host by causing the prepared saints to be taken out of the world and translated from all that is earthly to that which is heavenly. These overcomers are to be taken into the highest heavens and introduced to the Father in the Temple of heaven at the same time that the seven angels will be pouring out their Bowls of Wrath upon the earth.

: 5-8 This is why the Temple in heaven is seen being opened when all these things are ready to be fulfilled (*Rev. 11:19*). The seven angels carrying the seven Bowls come out of the Temple and a voice from the Temple then charges them to begin pouring out the Bowls of Wrath upon the earth (*Rev. 16:1*). The Temple is opened to emit the final wrath of God, but it is also open to admit and welcome the redeemed of God. However, the overcomers are permitted to enter only *after* the seven Plagues have seen their initial fulfillment on the earth. Thus there will be two suppers taking place simultaneously, the marriage supper of the Lamb in the Temple of heaven, the house of the Bridegroom's Father (*Rev. 19:7-9*), and the great supper of human flesh on the earth (*Rev. 19:17-18*).

The entrance of the redeemed saints into the Temple in heaven will be the final fulfillment of the Great Day of Atonement when those who have been "hid with Christ in God" (*Col. 3:2-3*) shall enter into their full liberty in Christ. There they shall be made ready to reign and rule with Him (being sealed with the "name" of His Father and the new "name" of Jesus Christ (*Rev. 3:12, 14:1*)). At the same time, the Great Day of Atonement will be fulfilled on earth by the greatest bloodbath in human history, as the blood of all those who have been martyred for truth's sake is avenged by wrath poured out (*Rev. 16:6*). Then those still remaining in the land of Palestine, primarily those who have turned to God during the Great Tribulation period, will see the personal return of Jesus Christ with His glorified saints and will marvel at the sight and admire Him (*II Thess. 1:10, Rev. 1:7*).

The Seven Bowls of Wrath

The Conclusion

REVELATION 16

Chapter 16 describes the third Woe, the outpouring of the seven Bowls of Wrath upon the earth just prior to the now near and visible return of Jesus Christ to earth. There are seven Bowls of Wrath just as there are seven Trumpets. The Trumpets announce the beginning of remedial judgments of God during the over-all end-time period, but the Bowls of Wrath consummate this judgment period and complete and climax His wrath upon rebellious earth (*Isa. 24, 64; Ps. 2; Isa. 2:6-22; Ezek. 38:18-39:8; Zech. 13:8-14:16*). Notice the correspondence in the symbolism between the Trumpets and Bowls of the same number. The first Trumpet released the tremendous power in the atom for destruction. This firepower will be used for great devastation to bring timely judgment upon the earth. It is the full fury of this same firepower that is unleashed by the first Bowl, and it is the various effects of this destructive power upon the inhabitants of the earth that is the primary theme of the entire seven Bowls.

Do not think that these Bowls of Wrath are supernatural outpourings from heaven. They are the result of what man has set in motion, the consequence of his wanton disobedience returning upon his own head (*Ps. 94:23, 7:15-16; Prov. 28:10*). The Bowls are implemented in and through men, and it is simply the overruling providence of God which causes the final judgments of wrath to be directed in the places and in the manner that He deems fitting.

The Bowls of Wrath, the output of all-out nuclear war, will not exceed 13 days duration. This display of God's Wrath (in His Wrath, He will not immediately stop what man then begins unto his own destruction) starts soon after the Harvest company is observed to depart early in the morning of the Day of Trumpets. The day would be in September. The Bowls of Wrath outpouring will cease on the evening of Tishri 14, the opening of the Festival of Tabernacles. Our Lord Jesus Christ will terminate the fighting of World War III when He sets foot on the Mount of Olives.

The Bowls of Wrath are poured out only on the non-Christian world and the unrepentant. The only exceptions will be the sealed 144,000 Jews in Israel and those joining them (*Rev. 7:4*). They will be divinely protected and preserved so they can joyfully witness the Lord's return when they cry out, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Everliving One" (*Matt. 23:39*).

:2 THE FIRST BOWL brings painful ulcers upon those who carry the mark of the beast and have submitted to that government's image. They are the result of radiation from nuclear explosions and build up of atmospheric contamination. The overcomers seen in heaven (*Rev. 15:2*) will have obtained the victory over the beast and his image,

but people on earth who have upheld the beast and his system will experience ignoble defeat. Nuclear bombs will be used by several nations in the final battle of the ages, and the earth will reel to and fro under the impact of immense explosions (*Isa. 24:20*). God will then destroy those who are corrupting (literally, through corrupting or polluting) the earth and its atmosphere (*Rev. 11:18*). People who have so polluted the earth, and will yet do so on a much greater scale by indiscriminate use of nuclear devices in the final conflict, shall themselves feel the effect of such corruption. Terrible radiation sores shall develop on all not supernaturally protected by the power of God. All Christians in the Bowl period will be protected according to their degree of preparation.

:3 THE SECOND BOWL poured into the “sea” corresponds with the second Trumpet description of the great mountain falling into the sea (*Rev. 8:8*). The sea is a type of peoples in agitation and revolution. The *Revelation 8* great mountain is a great nation, and the second Trumpet judgment is the disorder and revolution arising within her own borders. Whatever nation it is, great judgment will yet come upon America, primarily because she sinned against such great light and opportunity. Also, she is pivotal because of her position in world leadership, and because the intensity of the struggle within will cause repercussions around the world.

Most nations will reel under the impact of revolution within, and the chaos through revolution will continue to the end. For a time, it will be stayed by the power of dictatorial governments which shall arise to bring their nations into subjection to the beast powers. But after the final conflict begins, it will flare up with renewed force, until many nations become shambles of chaos and confusion. Especially at the last shall many die, because the attempt to restore order will be ruthless beyond imagination. This will be the fulfillment of the second Bowl, as the “sea” becomes as the blood of a dead man and every living soul dies who is *in* that sea. Every living person who continues *in* the sea of revolt will be immediately destroyed. Such drastic steps will be necessary for governments and nations even to be able to continue their existence.

:4-7 THE THIRD BOWL corresponds to the third Trumpet which shows the effect of the star, called “wormwood,” on the sources of the bodies of “water” (*Rev. 8:10*). This pictures the infection of educated classes and leaders with the false ideology of communism, and the subsequent flow of that communist fallacy to the common people through the infected leaders. It is the picture of waters in springs and rivers eventually flowing into the seas and larger bodies of water. The judgment of the third Bowl falls on the same leaders who have been responsible for perpetrating the communist fraud. These sources of “water” become blood. Those throughout the world who have led others into deception and ultimate destruction through the communist conspiracy shall themselves be destroyed. Since they have been guilty of trying to destroy the influence of Christianity, shedding the blood of the saints and prophets, they will be forced to drink of the same and to see their cause destroyed and their lives snuffed out (*Jer. 25:26-38*).

The angel of the waters proclaims the righteousness of the Lord, because He has so judged. This judgment will come at the time when it is apparent that the communist cause is lost and while wholesale destruction by nuclear weapons is taking place. Many communist leaders will take their own lives. Others will suffer violence at the hands of those who have suffered their indignities. And others will simply be destroyed by the blasts of atomic bombs – in the greatest bloodbath in history.

:8-9 THE FOURTH BOWL is poured out on the “sun.” The fourth Trumpet judgment

was also on the “sun,” darkening Europe’s traditional forms of state-supported Christianity. The fulfillment of the fourth Trumpet is the complete disruption of that relationship. This is the *preliminary* judgment upon the apostasies of church-state Christianity. The final judgment, that of the fourth Bowl, is poured out on the same “sun” that was darkened under the fourth Trumpet, but this time the result is the burning of men with fire and fierce heat. Great destruction will come upon the continent of Europe as fire from nuclear explosions devastates many areas and men who are not incinerated will be scorched by the fire-power. Almost inexplicably, the result is that they blaspheme the name of God, Who has the power over these plagues; they do not repent to give Him glory. Most who have not repented during the judgments of the Great Tribulation period tend to remain unrelenting in their obstinacy to the end (*II Thess. 2:11-12, Jer. 13:16, Isa. 55:6*).

: 10-11 THE FIFTH BOWL is poured out on the throne or seat of the beast. The fifth Trumpet brought about the progressive release of numerous hosts of Satan from the pit, a part of whose activity is to take captive the minds of certain men in high places who will be used to precipitate the world into titanic conflict. These men are primarily those behind the communist conspiracy to enslave the world under atheistic dictatorship; therefore, the fifth Bowl brings retribution to the Beast and to his kingdom.

Those who have held out in stubborn support of the beast of communism and its image of world socialist government shall be the special objects of wrath from on high. Just when the communist purveyors of anti-God society think they are going to succeed in their quest for world domination, God will providentially cause certain events to turn against them. During 3 ½ years, the Holy Spirit will have been working with great power, especially in the Christian nations of the west. There, mighty miracles are to be performed which cause consternation to enter the hearts of the world government forces.

In time, a split develops between the east and the west, leading to inevitable conflict, with all-out war as the result (see comment on *Rev. 13:15-17*, pages 282-286). Men’s minds will have been so completely taken captive by Satan that they will not turn back from a war in which there can be no decisive winner. Then God will turn the tide of battle against the beast nations and they will be caught in the web of their own making (*Isa. 14:25-26, 30:31-33*). Then the full fury of atomic destruction will fall on them, as God enables nations of the west who have extricated themselves from the beast system to use secret maneuvers made known to them through His special messengers. This turning back of the beast empire into complete destruction will begin shortly before the saints are taken up at the close of the Great Tribulation. Then, following the lifting of the overcoming saints out of the world, the battle will consummate in full fury as the Bowls of Wrath are poured out.

The darkness in the kingdom of the beast will be both literal and symbolic. Total power failures will bring much literal darkness; the symbolic darkness will be the total despair, coupled with anguish and intense suffering. The seat of the beast during the Great Tribulation is Moscow (see comment on the third Seal, pages 154-156). The devastating force of nuclear bombs and missiles will knock out Moscow’s power stations and their source of power, also the water works. It is then early winter there and cold, and everything heavily contaminated. Gnawing on their tongues for pain is what people do when they suffer unquenchable thirst. No light, no power, no water.

During past centuries, the seat of the dragon has been at Rome. It was through the

Catholic Church (Roman and Greek) that Satan has brought forth his own “religion” – communism – out of reactions against the excesses of the Church. Then in the ending of the age, that seat or throne is taken north to Moscow for finishing what the philosophy of communism put into motion. Due to the bitter hatred and resentment rising in the hearts of all who have been completely sold out to their depraved ways, they will blaspheme God because of their anguish and ulcers; they will not repent of their actions.

: 12 **THE SIXTH BOWL** is poured out on the great river Euphrates. The sixth Trumpet released the four angels bound in the Euphrates and, as a result, the armies of the communists eventually go forth, as the waters overflow the banks of that river (*Isa. 8:6-8*). The pouring out of the sixth Bowl dries up the waters of the Euphrates, indicating the later developments turning back those armies to their destruction. But before this turning back is accomplished, there will have been a gathering together of the armies of the east, as well as all armies, in Armageddon (*Rev. 16:16*). Although the city of Megiddo (meaning to pour in and clasp), to which the expression “Armageddon” refers, was situated on the edge of the wide plain where many great battles were fought in ancient times, the label on the end-time gathering there is primarily symbolic. “Armageddon” is a symbolic appellation picturing the intensity of the final conflict of the ages. The sixth Bowl has primarily to do with the last stages of this final great conflict. The “drying up” of the river Euphrates therefore, is the complete overcoming of the armies of certain eastern nations which are under the banner of the Beast. The preparing of the way for the kings of the east means the preparing of the way or road for their destruction. This is brought about by the “drying up” or the turning back of their armies in confusion and defeat.

In order to present a more complete picture of the how and why of the final conflict, John was given to understand what has led up to it and to see the forces which are now instrumental in gathering the nations to battle. The gathering is not a part of the sixth Bowl, but was shown to John at the time he saw the sixth Bowl poured out so that the relationship of the gathering to Armageddon with the destruction of the armies of the east might be understood.

: 13-14 The mysterious forces which bring about the gathering to Armageddon are seen as three unclean spirits like frogs, coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. Frogs are creatures of the water which are perpetually croaking in the darkness of the night time. The water speaks of the things of the soul, those things which lurk deep within the desire-nature of reprobate man. The croaking indicates a speaking of lying propaganda which is the product of man’s darkness apart from the light of Divine Truth. Both are the result of “unclean spirits” of Satan working to subvert man into ways of exploitation, lust for power and eventual bloodshed.

There are three ideologies, closely related, yet separate in emphasis and connected with different power blocs, which are leading the nations to certain conflict. The frog and croaking that comes out of the mouth of the dragon is Fascism; that from the mouth of the beast is Communism; and that from the mouth of the false prophet is Socialism. All three systems emphasize the deifying of the powers of autocratic rule. They recognize no rights of the individual as divinely given by the Creator. They destroy the personal responsibility of man before the God of all flesh. They breed moral degeneration and spiritual insipidness. And they lead to inevitable conflict and chaos. Not being

of God, they cannot last; they will either collapse under their own perverted weight with much bloodshed, or they will die in agonizing conflict with each other. They are products of the spirits of demons, working signs, which go to the rulers of the whole world to gather them together to the battle of that Great Day of God the Almighty.

When is that “great day”? If that time can be shown, then the time can be revealed when the gathering of the nations of Armageddon intensifies its pace. The symbolic gathering of the nations has been going on for many years, ever since the implementation of these three ideologies began in earnest. Therefore, from one perspective, the Day of the Lord has already begun to dawn. But there is a specific point at which it can be said that the Day of the Lord has arrived and the key is revealed in the next verse.

: 15 “Lo, I come as a thief. . . .” It is also written that the Day of the Lord comes as a thief (*I Thess. 5:2*); so both the Lord Jesus and His Day come as a thief. The Lord’s coming is synchronous with the blowing of the seventh Trumpet. His coming is first as a thief to break through the household of the Church (*Lk. 12:39*) and remove the “Jewels” (*Mal. 3:17*), the 144,000 Firstfruits group (*Rev. 14:1*) translated at the beginning of the Great Tribulation (see comment on *Rev. 14:1-5*, page 289). When the 144,000 company of the most choice of the saints disappears, the 42 month Day of the Lord has begun and the seventh Trumpet has started to sound its notes.

: 16 Then the pace shall quicken in the gathering of the nations to the final conflict. It will be the Great Day of God Almighty because of the greatness of His manifestation in spiritual power and glory through His saints upon the earth. It also will be great because of the enormity of His might which shall be unleashed in the awesome fire-power of the atom. It is the Great Day of God Almighty because the great God and Savior will exercise His almighty power in putting down the impudence and haughtiness of man. The Day of the Lord of hosts shall be upon each one that is lifted up by man, that he might be brought low. The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day (*Isa. 2:11-12, 19-21*). Blessed is he who watches so that his spirit may *keep* the garments of the soul *and* the outer physical body.

Having seen the armies of the beast turned back (the drying up of the river Euphrates) and military operations on land and full scale war against Israel terminated, there remains only the last agonizing phase of the atomic holocaust which rages throughout the seven Bowls of Wrath. Armageddon, which symbolically denotes the climax of the east-west conflict during the six Bowls of Wrath, will then be over. The land of Israel will have been washed by the blood of foreigners who had previously shed Jewish blood. Massive bloodshed would be over on the Day of Atonement, although the aerial nuclear war would continue.

: 17 When **THE SEVENTH BOWL** is poured out into the air, a mighty voice comes from the Throne in the Temple of Heaven saying, “It is done” or “It is come into being,” because the seventh Bowl is synonymous with the visible return of the Lord. The first “It is finished” signified Christ’s victory over Satan and all evil on Calvary. The second “It is accomplished” is a demonstrated victory of His Body of Christians in completely dispossessing Satan and his followers. It is His personal return that causes the final wrath to be poured out, as He comes to tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (*Rev. 19:15*). He is to be revealed in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them who willfully do not know God and on them who knowingly will not conform to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (*II Thess. 1:7-8, Isa. 64:1-3*), for the fires of

nuclear war will still be raging sporadically as He returns to put an end to man's insanity – lest all flesh would be destroyed (*Matt. 24:22*). All seven Bowls will be poured out within 14 days.

: 18-21 God's Wrath, expressed in His permitting mankind to engage in a mad drive to destroy Israel and eventually enslave Christendom, brings the nations into a 14 day all-out nuclear war. The nuclear phase begins immediately after the Lord's Harvest Host of millions is glorified and removed. Its land based operations cease with a tremendous victory for Christian nations as the Day of Atonement concludes. The aerial exchanges of *big* nuclear bombs continue and probably peak midafternoon four days later. From *Isaiah 24*, we learn that under the tremendous forces released on that day, the earth planet staggers in its orbit like a drunken man, even being forced a little out of its present orbit. There will be shakings and great eruptions throughout the earth as it writhes and convulses for days, reeling to and fro under the weight and fullness of man's iniquity. The seas will roll, tsunami waves will tower mountain high, and cities will be inundated and smashed in that day. Coast lands will be scoured clean of cities and millions will perish. Some islands will disappear, and some mountains will crumble, bringing drastic changes in the topography of many places. Seas shall reveal their hidden mysteries, as great land masses are uncovered and exposed to view. Once buried cities shall be unveiled as the earth gives birth in that day. Many things previously not known shall be made known. Great will be the cry of anguish as the waves of the sea roll, with great destruction upon the land and in the sea.

But in that day, it is the Lord Who will control. Towards sunset initiating the Day of Tabernacles, the heavy cover of murky clouds will suddenly break to reveal the King of kings and Lord of lords. Amidst voices, thunders and lightnings, He and the train of His millions of saints appear in flaming fire, descending toward the Mount of Olives. Millions on the ground stand paralyzed and stare in unbelief. Prompted by Lucifer, volley after volley of rocket fire roars up against the incoming King of Creation, but an undisturbed, yet tempestuous vortex of fire such as never before seen majestically descends to the Mountain. As His nail-torn feet touch down on the bloodstained soil, the mountain range explodes, dividing to north and south. A great east-west valley results. The Mount of Olives being split in the middle symbolizes the establishment of His two Kingdoms, one in heaven and a separate one on earth (*Zech. 14:4-7*). The earth's convulsions cease. The Word of the Lord Jesus Christ guides the planet into its new smooth course. Israel's remaining millions rejoice in tremendous appreciation. They have recognized their Messiah. The "tribes of the land" with Islamic faith sound new depths of grief; they learn their prophet was false. The brilliant cloud of glorified saints take a position over the blood washed land. The Millennium Sabbath has come and no more will nations prepare for war. The dove of peace gently wings its way over Israel and then on to other lands.

If the remaining saints are not prepared to move wherever the Lord instructs, and if they have not learned to "hear" His voice and distinguish it from deceitful demon spirit voices, they will perish. The Lord will make known what day and hour the saints are to flee for safety, for He protects those who look to Him and exclusively depend upon Him. Therefore, until instructions are received, the saints are not to panic, but remain where they are *and fear not*. They shall not decide through fear to move until told by the Lord. He is faithful and will surely speak to His own in that day. In the meantime and in preparation, they are to be calm before Him and actively wait upon Him, seeking

His face daily so that you may know Him and learn to distinguish His voice in the day of trouble.

As in the days of Noah, the world has been weighed down in the self-indulgence of prosperity and is totally preoccupied with today's tensions. In the pattern, the Great Tribulation will snap on the world as a trigger trap (*Lk. 21:34-35*). A flood of harmful emotion in lies and deceits will drown all who are not alert to the Word of God (*Rev. 12:15*). During the final half of the Great Tribulation, as in the days of Lot, fire will come out of the atmospheric heavens and destroy many who are too much attached to their locale and will not move (*Lk. 17:26-37*). The messengers of the Lord will be on duty. His glorified saints will be set in battle array to be of service to those who are trusting in the Lord and looking to Him for deliverance. The loving heavenly Father will deliver *His* own! As Lot was led out of the city, so will the Harvest Host be taken out of the battle-occupied world early in the morning of Tishri 1 to be with the Lord.

Immediately after The Tribulation, when the beast shall cause nuclear fire to come down in the sight of men, the tremendous energy of the nuclear fire balls will affect the weather. Water vapor lifted to the high atmosphere will condense and freeze and fall to earth as great hail out of heaven – hailstones weighing 50-60 pounds or more. The hail is also to be understood as bombs and missiles. There will be a rain of destruction from fire and hail, mixed with blood (*Acts 2:19*). But even in their death agonies, most who have not repented during the Great Tribulation period continue unrepentant and blaspheme God, because of the plague of hail.

The Lord is calling all who will hear His Word to get into His Ark, His ship of safety. Only in that Ark, which is Jesus Christ, can you be safe in the end-time storm which will envelope the whole earth. Only in Him and in His will for your life, is there safety in these last days of the age. Get totally into the Ark and stay there – and there He will protect you.

During the final Bowl of Wrath, the Great City is broken into three parts..., the great Babylon is remembered by God. The "city" represents the three aspects of the world-wide system of Babylon – the religious, the political and the commercial. "Babylon" is the symbolic designation of all that is set up by man, his ways and his works apart from God; the ways and works of unregenerate man always bring tyranny and oppression in one way or another. For millennia, man has suffered the inhumanity of man by means of the unrighteous systems known as Babylon; therefore, Babylon is to be remembered and must drink the wine of His wrath.

The 13 ½ days of cleansing of the earth planet will immediately follow the close of the Great Tribulation. God, in His wrath over refusal of the rebellious to repent, will Himself refuse to further protect selfish man from destructively competitive man. When His protective shelter is removed with the Harvest Host, the uninhibited use of nuclear weapons will initiate.

The Great Tribulation concludes with the darkening of the sun. Immediately after the Tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shine her light, and the stars (shiners) will fall from the sky and the powers of the heavens (ouranos, referring to the uranium of nuclear explosives in this case) will be shaken (a 13 ½ day experience). Then the sign (event) of the Son of Man will appear in the sky. And then all the tribes of the land (not earth) will mourn and they will see the Son of Man coming

(personal arrival), trailed by clouds of glorified saints, with power and great glory (*Matt. 24:30-31*).

Land operations of the nuclear war will continue into its climax on the Day of Atonement in the greatest blood bath in history (Armageddon). "Armageddon" concludes with the "drying up of the waters of the Euphrates," a brilliant victory for the nations of Christendom after much punishment. The aerial war continues another 4 days, featuring the use of the most and the largest of the nuclear missiles. Under the immense force of the explosions, the earth reels and staggers, even being jarred out of its present orbit (*Isa. 24:17-21*). Some islands will disappear, some mountains will crumble, and topography will change in many areas. Cities will be scoured off the coast by mountain-high tsunami waves and storms.

The aerial exchange of the *big* bombs should climax mid-afternoon of the fourth day after the Day of Atonement victory. Near sunset, the sign of the Son of Man will appear overhead, breaking through the thick, dirty, brown cloud cover, as the Lord and His Host descend upon Jerusalem. Satan-impelled man will try to shoot down the approaching procession, but to no avail. The Lord's touch down on the Mount of Olives splits the range and opens a great east-west valley. The tremendous earthquake disrupts the remaining military operations and knocks all aircraft and missiles from the skies (*Zech. 14:3-8*).

The Lord is in control! The millions of remaining Jews rejoice; they have seen and at last recognized their long awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ. The Islamic tribes of the land will be in deep mourning; they will see their revered Mohammed proven a false prophet and his leading not toward but away from God. The peace of the Millennium begins; nations will no longer spend and prepare for war. The healing of peace will cover Israel and move on to the other lands – east and west. The Lord adjusts and smooths the planet into its new orbit of righteousness, an orbit of 360 days per year. A new age and a new series of ages incept (*Zech. 14:9-11, 16-21*).

The overtones of the seven Bowls are positive, not negative. Man's ways and man's Babylonian systems, as well as rebellious man himself, represent an old building which is broken and rotten to the core, unredeemable in its present state. God's purpose is to issue in a golden age of righteousness and peace – in a society built by God, not by man. Therefore, the seven Bowls are designed to clear away all that is of man's evil (harmful) designs and prepare the way for a world of righteousness. A remnant of all nations will be protected and preserved through the Bowls of Wrath and the remnant is of those who have called on the name of the Lord that they might be saved – preserved (*Lev. 23:22*). In western nations, where a larger portion of the population is Christian, greater numbers will be preserved from death (*Rom. 8:37-39*).

All Christians will not be taken when the Lord returns for His second lot of overcomer saints because some are not even then fully ready. Only those fully sanctified or separated to Jesus Christ, those who receive the complete inner work of His Spirit, will be ready to enter the heavenly Kingdom. Those taken and glorified are the 100-fold or "full-grain-in-the-ear" Christians (*Mk. 4:20, 28*). The 30-fold and the 60-fold, the "blade" and the "ear" Christians, will remain on earth to provide the seed for the nations during the Millennium (*Lev. 23:22*). Shortly after the glorified saints return with the Lord, they will take their posts of responsibility to shepherd and govern the inhabitants of the earth in the earthly Kingdom (*Zech. 14:5, I Thess. 3:13, Col. 3:4, Jude 14*). Then shall

righteousness begin to flourish and knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall fill the earth as waters fill the sea (*Hab. 2:14*). But first, He must visit the earth and sweep away man's refuge of lies and begin to build that which is founded in truth (*Isa. 28:17*).

The Kingdom of the World

The Basic Beast Form

REVELATION 17

Revelation 12 and Revelation 17 both use the woman symbol to drive home truths we need to know in this ending of the age. The woman of the Old Testament was identified with the Church (*Isa. 54:5-8, Jer. 2:2*). Her function did not start out as a harlot, but it developed into a harlot (*Jer. 3:8-10*). The rejection of God and turning to other keepers made her a harlot. Then man's ideas entered and there was confusion of truth (Babylon). Yet there was always a remnant working to present truth. That work also included learning how to come out of Babylon's confusion. So we see two women, particularly at the end of that age which would bring the birth of Jesus Christ. One woman had been a harlot. The other had been in the wilderness where food and water were scarce, but was not a harlot. Here we must see the two women, not as a collection of individual persons, but as beliefs or faiths or systems of operation. The harlot has been in anyone giving himself out for hire or for higher position relative to his faith. But anyone who has worked hard to present truth in no way has any part of the harlot in him.

The pattern repeated in duplicate in the Christian era, among those who became the replacements of the ancient Church of Judah. The early Christian Church was not a harlot, but she came into the harlot nature in about 315 A.D. The Church looked to Rome as the Master, and looked away from Christ as her Keeper-Provider. She rejected the Lord. Later, her Protestant daughters turned back toward Christ, but then looked away to the State. They too grew into the harlot nature. When the State took the place of the rejected Christ, the Holy Spirit ceased to be the teacher; man's theology entered and brought on confusion of truth (Babylon). Yet there has been a remnant unwilling to give up a valid relationship with Christ. Particularly in our day, there are the early awakeners who see and spell out Truth for others to see. There are again two women. One is a harlot. The other is in the wilderness, where nourishing food and water are scarce; but she is not a harlot. Each of the women is a belief or faith or system of operation, not human beings. He who will accept Truth is no longer in confusion, but is coming out – step by step. He who presents impregnable Truth is neither of the harlot nor of Babylon.

Jesus Christ is pictured walking in the midst of the seven Lampstands, which are seven Churches. He is not walking with the harlot. The *Revelation 12* woman in the wilderness is the woman or faith bringing forth the Manchild, Firstfruits company. She is the one woman through whom the Lord can and does work, to make her glorious. Remember, she does not picture individual people in any assembly, although she is evidenced by or through individuals. She is in the wilderness of scarcity of Truth, but

she is not the harlot. The early awakeners and the Manchild are developing within her today (*Rev. 2:4-5; 2:20-21; 3:1-2,10,16-18*). She develops the attitude of repentance in each one who is of her.

There is another woman with whom the Lord will not work – Jezebel. She has rejected Him for others and she does not repent. She is the harlot. She and all in whom she dwells will be brought into the distress of Great Tribulation (*Rev. 2:22-23, 17:6*). She is the woman serving herself, for wealth and position (*Rev. 17:4-7*). She it is who kills (makes ineffective) the saints and witnesses (martyrs) for Jesus. Since 315 A.D., it is she who has been developing the beast system to support her and care for her needs, sponsoring a seducing faith, in place of *the* Faith presented by Jesus Christ.

The harlot woman is more than just the functioning of the man-kept Church on earth. She has identified herself with the spiritual headquarters of a city (a dwelling place) whose citizens are the hosts of Satan. It is they who seduced her into harlotry (*Rev. 18:1-2*). She is not the civil government of nations, nor is she the businesses operating in them. Neither is she the human administrators of any religious denomination or collection of denominations. She is their functioning or the “faith” by which they operate. Wherever Christ was rejected as sole Keeper-Provider, Mighty Babylon moved in.

She contends that she does have a husband and that he is the King (*Rev. 18:7, 2:20*). Yet historically, she has always furnished the informers on saints, accusing them of “heresy” – in Old Testament and New Testament times. It was the Scribes and Pharisees and High Priests who used political Rome to accomplish the Savior’s death. Later, it was the Jewish *and* the Christian Church members who turned over “heretics” to the civil government. Even later, the Church itself exercised the prerogatives of trial and execution belonging to civil governments. Both the Catholic mother and her Protestant daughters put to death many prophets of God as those prophets stood firm on the truth they saw. Rogers and Tyndale were burned at the stake for translating the Bible into the English language! The woman, having her early upbringing in God’s truth, gets drunk on the blood of the saints (*Rev. 17:6*). How utterly amazing! It was the *teachings* of the Church which backed the death sentences. And it is from the seminaries and colleges in which the harlot plied her trade that we have “gained” Christendom’s contemporary religious training (*Lk. 18:8*). God bless the early awakeners (*Jer. 1:10-12*)!

The God-backed woman in the wilderness (who is not the harlot) is to be preserved throughout 1260 days of Great Tribulation (*Rev. 12:6,14-16*). Why not longer? It is because the 1260 days beyond the taking up of the Firstfruits will encompass the whole of the remaining wilderness experience. After the 1260 days, there will be no more wilderness. By the end of the 1260 day period, Satan’s perversions will have been completely removed from the midst of the Church. Scarcity of Truth shall be no more. The period of testing for faithfulness will be over. She will no longer be the woman in the wilderness, but the woman in glorious attire. Babylon ceases to be, when full Truth is everywhere available and understood (*Rev. 18:2*).

The harlot woman is to be desolated and her flesh (teachings) utterly burned out as World War III nears its end. Why not earlier? It is because the Lord has use for her until then. It is she alone who could conduct herself in the manner prompting the development and acceptance of the “religion” of communism and its precursor, socialism. She has been the helping agent shaping the progress into a Godless Communist’s successful

military challenge for world domination. But when that schedule has been met, or almost met, she will be of no more use. Then she will be crushed and burned. By the time the harlot woman has finished her work, the glorious woman will be strong enough and capable of taking on the responsibility of mothering all of earth's remaining inhabitants into the maturity of eonian well-being, living for others (*Rev. 14:6, Jn. 13:34*).

Chapter 17 shows the basic form and the great potential of the seven-headed, ten-horned beast. It also shows the relationship of the harlot woman with the beast. Here, the beast has as yet no crown. **Revelation 12** showed the stage of progressive development just before and during the early portion of the Great Tribulation (the seven heads are crowned). **Revelation 13** pictured the concluding stage (both heads and horns crowned), during which the nations enter into final conflict with each other as the last half of the Tribulation passes by. **Chapter 17** also brings an expansion of what is this "Babylon" coming under particular judgment (*Rev. 14:8, 16:19*). In **chapter 17** she is pictured especially as the religious Babylon, although she also embraces the political and commercial Babylon. In Scripture, both the false and true Church faiths are pictured as women (*Rev. 2:20, 12:1, 17:1; Eph. 5:25,32*), also as cities, Babylon and Jerusalem (*Rev. 14:8, Gal. 4:26, Rev. 16:19*).

:1-2 The great harlot is in the man-organized religious systems of the nations (*Rev. 17:15*), the pagan and also the later corrupted Christianity, even though it is a nominally God-worshipping religion (*Jms. 4:4, Hos. 2:1-16, Ezek. 16:43-55, Jer. 2:1-22, 3:12-17*). It is in union with the rulers of nations who enter into "business" with her that she gains influence and control over the many nations (waters), through religious and financial complicity (*Rev. 17:18, Jer. 51:13*).

And the rulers then extend that influence to their subjects, making them drunk with the "wine" of the complicity. Note that wine is produced by the fermentation or working of the grapes and, as we have seen, there is a positive and a negative application. The grapes grow on the vine. The Vine is the heavenly Father. Therefore, wine is the outcome of development in a formulated plan of operation. Matured wine is the completion of that plan through putting it into operation. In its positive application, Jesus Christ completed His own human part by providing and shedding His sinless, immortal blood so all could approach the Father. He likened the wine to His blood, and also related it to the completed plan of the New Covenant (*Matt. 26:28*). The wine in **Revelation 17** is a negative application of the same symbolism. It is an historical pattern repeated again and again in which rulers keep their people from the Truth and in fear by means of a man-established caste system of priests administering man-made legalisms of "thou shalt nots" as though they were from God (*I Tim. 4:1-5*). The union of government (state) and church is a union of compromise and accommodation, and so the harlot and the historic beast system are seen riding along together through the ages. Later she is to be stripped of all she has and be destroyed by that same system (*Rev. 17:16*).

:3 The beast system and its woman rider are first presented here in a basic historical perspective – the heads and horns still not crowned. **Revelation 12** is placed where it is, following the description of the period during which two witnesses boom out their testimony, because the unveiling of the Firstfruits Bride company is also one of the important contemporary events. In that time, at the start of the Great Tribulation's 3 1/2 years, the beast is shown with crowns on its seven heads. Then **Revelation 13** continues the sequencing and shows the beast at the time when both its seven heads and ten

horns are crowned. The time of the seventeen crowns has been shown to be during the latter half of the Great Tribulations's 3 1/2 years. The crowning would represent the beast system coming into a fullness of authority and power in the last days of the age. But the beast system and its woman rider go far back into history. To identify the heads historically, it is necessary to go back even before Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon; there were other beast governments and their false religions previously dominating God's Chosen People.

The woman is seen riding a seven-headed monster, not one-headed or five-headed. The beast is pictured as secondary to the woman. In fact, she is responsible for the development of the beast. She has worked long and hard to build up this system to the point that it can carry her with income and other support adequate for her needs. The system supports her. Yet the seven-headed monster and the woman must be understood in relationship to God's Chosen People, because the whole of the Word of God was given through the prophets only for the purpose of dealing with His Chosen People.

This particular woman was and is a spiritual reality and archetype for that which manifests on earth as the harlot or false church. It is Lucifer's substitute for the true Church, which is the Church of Christ. And it is the false church which has entered into fornication with the kings of the earth and made the earthlings drunk with the wine of her unfaithfulness. The words do not say that it was merely the people of pagan Rome, but all of humankind who have become drunk with that wine. The written records and also the archaeological findings give the sorry evidence of this harlot's witchery.

Everywhere, gods in great number were worshipped. Initially, these gods were spirits sensed or seen by the priests, alleged to be directors of this or that, and the dis-burser of favors to man – if they were appeased, or bribed. Therefore, through generous gifts to the priesthood, the (demon) gods were to watch over and keep their worshippers in good crops, fertility, etc. The kings reasoned that if the people could be kept in a servitude to the priests and if the priests were placed on the state payroll and kept by the king, the false religion would serve the national interest. The pattern would serve as a cohesive force to bind together divergent tribes and maintain them in loyalty to their king. It was the kings and the false religion which committed the fornication; the people were made drunk with the wine of the fornication, by the rulers.

The initial picture of the beast is given here before his heads are crowned. He is shown as a scarlet beast. Fiery red is the color of anger and *war*. Scarlet is red modified by considerable yellow. Yellow denotes prudence or reason, holding back a full engagement into war. But in **Revelation 12:3**, with the heads crowned, the beast is shown fiery red, *ready* for all-out war.

:4 The woman is arrayed in purple (blue-serenity), scarlet and gold (yellow), which are Satan's colors (**Rev. 9:17**). The purple and scarlet, the gold, precious stones, pearls and cup of gold (**Jer. 51:6-9**) were all used in ancient Babylon's anti-God worship. All of these were carried through and into the worship practices of the fourth century, man-organized Church and have even been retained in many of the church accouterments of our day.

:5 On the harlot's forehead, in her mind or inner being, is a name or nature of secret and symbolic meaning. She is "Babylon," the spirit realm mother who has given birth to all false religions (harlots) and to all the earth's abominations, religious, political

and commercial. As the “Jerusalem above” (the headquarters and symbol of the glorified Body of Christ) should already be for all, but is yet to become the “mother” of true Christians (*Gal. 4:26*), nurturing, protecting and guiding toward Jesus Christ as King and protecting, so is “Babylon” (the Satan-inspired world systems) the “mother” of all that is against God, guiding away from Jesus and shielding from God’s blessings. Babylon is man’s religious (both pagan and corrupted Christian), political and economic systems, all united to turn man’s attention from God.

:6 She is also responsible for the shedding of the saint’s blood, killed because of their testimony during the Old Testament and the New Testament periods up through the close of the age. She has always gone out against dynamic representatives of Jesus Christ. And because our days are the last days of the age, Satan will be sure to give particular attention through her to those who will speak God’s Word with power and authority. Through all the agents at his disposal, Satan is coming more and more strongly against Spirit-inspired teaching and preaching of the present time, and he will be giving special emphasis to trying to stop that which is to come with the Great Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (*Joel 2:28*). He is looking for the openings of an inadequate preparation, a lack of attentive care for continual growth within the Body of Christians, and a passivity in the mind not diligently seeking out ways of actively cooperating with the will of God. When John saw this woman, he was utterly amazed. She had had so many opportunities and deliverances, and this was the result – a turning away into harlotry.

:7 This great harlot woman, who is also the Jezebel of *Revelation 2:20*, has plied her trade for many centuries, even before the Christian era began, sitting on many waters (peoples) and also on a scarlet-colored beast full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. From the overall historical perspective, the seven heads are seven major nations or empires which have been or are influenced by this great harlot. Historically, the woman (the faith presented by the priestcraft of false religion) has directly affected the affairs of nations through the close relationship of government and an officially supported priesthood. The priesthood has helped the ruling forces to maintain power and control by keeping the masses of people in subjection through fear and supposed paternalistic favor. Thus the woman is supported or carried by the beast through an official working relationship between religion and state (*Rev. 17:5*).

Today, in those former Christian nations which have taken on the name of blasphemy, the relationship between the woman and the beast has grown to a different proportion. The woman is responsible for the emerging of these Marxist dictatorships, through having fostered conditions leading to severe reaction against the corrupt system which prevailed through her adultery (*Rev. 17:2*). The false religion factually bears responsibility for spawning communism – it is *her* offspring – and therefore she shall be judged by her offspring. We see this prophetic judgment in the ten horns which shall hate her, eat her flesh and burn her with fire (*Rev. 17:16*).

The ten horns are ten nations (or 20 countries controlled by 10 rulers) which will be completely taken over by Marxist elements and become an integrated part of the “sea beast” of communism (*Rev. 13:1, 17:13*). They shall then turn on the religious systems, including Catholic and Protestant, and decimate them. The very stronghold of the Roman Church system in the Vatican will be a primary target, but the harlot daughters of the Protestant fold will also be greatly affected.

Six historical beast empires associated with God’s Chosen People have already been

influenced by the impressive harlot, Babylon the great or Jezebel, and have affected God's people of both physical and spiritual Israel. The first oppressor was Egypt (1700 B.C.); then came #2, Assyria (722 B.C.), which carried the ten tribes captive; #3, Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon (606 B.C.); #4, Medo-Persia (538 B.C.); #5, Greece (333 B.C.); and #6, Rome (63 B.C.). All oppressed the kingdom of Judah.

:8 The Roman Republic decayed from within and was broken. It was wounded to death, but pagan Rome became "Christianized" Rome approximately 315 A.D., revived as the Holy Roman Empire. This was the historical preview of the head wounded to death and then revived (*Rev. 13:3*). There is also to be an end-time fulfillment of the "head" being wounded to death, and all peoples who do not honestly accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior and as personal Master will admire that re-established ruler, whom Satan then incarnates (*Rev. 13:4*), and will "worship" him.

:9-10 In Scripture, "hills" and "mountains" are kingdoms and nations (*Isa. 64:1-3*). The seven heads are seven hills (governing bodies) and are also the seven key rulers of nations which have been sold out to Satan and become his tools. Five of these have fallen, one governing body is (even today) and one is yet to come – to remain only a little while, a late arrival. The empires of Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Medo-Persia and Greece (five) have fallen; the Roman "head" succeeded the "head" of Greece. Daniel saw the succession of the beast powers only from the time of his captivity in Babylon; therefore, his four beasts correspond to heads 3, 4, 5 and 6 (*Dan. 7:3-7*). He saw no more, because *if* the people of Israel would have accepted the Messiah, either before or after Calvary, there would have been no more beast powers and history would have been entirely different. But because of the rejection and an extension of time, the beast powers were continued.

Just as physical Israel was set aside and the Chosen People carried on through "spiritual Israel" (*Gal. 3:29, Matt. 21:43*), so also the beast of that day, pagan Rome, was succeeded by Christianized Rome. Pagan Rome was overrun and wounded to death, but was revived through the papacy and continued as "Christian Rome" in the papal power and the political-religious system of the Holy Roman Empire. It was the same beast and the same sixth head; its inherited power was just carried on in a different form. Just as "spiritual Israel" picked up the mantle of physical Israel and is no longer confined to the land of Palestine, so also did "Christian" Rome pick up the mantle of pagan Rome and is no longer confined to the boundaries of the old pagan Roman Republic. When "Christian" Rome evangelized other nations, they also took Rome's identity upon themselves and the beast of pagan Rome became established as the beast of Christendom ("Christian" nations).

Eventually there was a split between east and west, the two legs of Daniel's image (*Dan. 2:32-33*). Eastern Christendom was dominated by the Eastern or Greek Orthodox Church and western nations by the Roman Catholic Church, but both were still of the Roman beast, the sixth head. Today, those Christian nations which apostatized from Christianity and accepted God-rejecting communism, have taken on names of blasphemy (*Rev. 17:3, 13:1*). They are the end-time manifestation of that same beast seen by Daniel. They are of the same sixth head which ruled in the day of the Apostle John.

There were six empires which have had a part in oppressing God's Chosen People, up through that of pagan Rome. During the rule of those six empires, there were also six specific rulers or men who were under the influence of Lucifer's demon spirits and

served to establish the support for the harlot woman. But when the sixth empire of pagan Rome was being phased into the sixth empire under the name of Christian Rome, there was a seventh ruler. In 100 A.D., he was the one then yet to come. This may well have been Constantine, who did establish the Church-State relationship. He ruled within the sixth beast empire, but he was the seventh ruler – 7 to conform with the number of time: Church which is “7.”

However, there are to be seven beast empires. The seventh, yet to be established, is to function with a helper organization. In its final phase, the sixth beast empire will give way to the seventh of world communism. With the seventh will be another organization to help form the image of the beast throughout the world. The helper is the coming world government of the false prophet which will issue out of a vitalized United Nations Organization. When it comes, it too will continue only a short time (*Rev. 13:11-18, 19:20*), but, during that time, it operates to truly serve the Satan-incarnated ruler of the then contemporary seventh beast empire. The woman of false religion will continue to hold sway in the coming era of the seventh beast empire, because the corrupt systems, including both Catholic and Protestant, will enter into league with the seventh beast of communism.

The initial motivation for cooperation will be the promises of keeping peace, providing deliverance and insuring security. The United Nations will be proclaiming the same promises and will do its best to pressure nations into a confederation within its frame of world socialism. From that mold, those nations are to be led into the image of the beast system of communism. Both physical and spiritual Israel will be deceived by the propaganda of the communists and will partake of the development of their lies – against the clear admonitions of the Word of God. Physical Israel and a substantial portion of spiritual Israel will come under the temporary domination of the beast of communism. However, both the beast empire of communism and its helper, the United Nations Organization, will remain in power only a short time. The confederacy of world socialism will divide against itself halfway through the Great Tribulation, as the strongest western nations rise up against the beast empire of communism. Then, with the strategem provided by the prophets of the Lord, they will completely overcome the stupendous power of the beast system.

: 11 There are to be a total of seven beast empires and seven rulers oppressing God's Chosen People, but there is mention of one of the seven also being an eighth ruler participating within the span of the seven empires. Since there are but seven human heads or kings, one *has* to come twice to make the eighth appearance and to become host to the eighth ruler, Satan. Each ruler was or is to be caught into the influence of Lucifer's demon spirits. The seventh ruler reigned in the early portion of the Christian era, corresponding to the 7 number symbolism for the Church. Presumably, this was Constantine. In his time, the seventh did not oppress the saints. But of the seven, there is an eighth also yet to come. And when he comes, he will remain only a short time. He is the eighth but he is also of the seven. In other words, the human spirit manifesting in the seventh ruler will be the identical human spirit manifesting in the near future to furnish the host-body for the eighth ruler of world communism. He becomes the eighth ruler in the sense of being the seventh reincarnate, in a new physical body, having lived before but also the incarnation of the Satan spirit and soul who is himself to be the eighth. He will reign in power for a very short space of time. He will head the communist empire, which has renounced its place in Christendom. He will be invested with

At certain times, the beast system is evidenced by demon control of certain rulers. When each term of that control is concluded by the Lord, the demon spirit leaves. The kingdom or government continues afterward – at least for a time in most cases. The Beast then looks for another good opportunity to develop conditions which will again bring major affliction upon the Chosen People (Rev. 13:7, 17:2). It is the Jews who still have the promise of being set in as rulers of the earth. Satan sees that as competition.

1. **Egypt**
Pharaoh (1)
2. **Assyria**
Sennacherib (2)
3. **Babylon**
Nebuchadnezzar (3)
4. **Medo-Persia**
Darius? (4)
5. **Greece**
Alexander (5)
6. **Rome**
Gaius or Caligula? (6)
37-41 A.D. Acts 8:1
Constantine 1 (7)
300-337 A.D.
7. **World Communism**
Reincarnated Constantine spirit
also incarnated by Satan just
before the Great Tribulation (8)

Revelation 17:8 The Beast in operation has been the progression of seven demon-spirit chiefs of Satan, controlling seven human rulers who oppress the Chosen People (Rev. 13:7).

"Was" – Six times through six human rulers.

"Is not" – At 100 A.D., the contemporary ruler was not so indwelt.

"To come" – Presumably Constantine 1 and the ruler of world communism (at the Kremlin) who is Satan indwelt during the 3½ years of Great Tribulation.

Revelation 17:10 Nations and their line of rulers, as world powers affecting the Chosen People.

In 100 A.D., five had fallen.

"One is" – The then contemporary pagan Roman Empire and its ruler, the sixth.

"One to come" – Replacement of the sixth by World Communism. It must come after May 14, 1949. At some time then, a 3½ year period of World

Communism.

Revelation 17:11 The Beast who was, is not, is to come; he is the eighth. Only seven governments with seven indwelt rulers. The ruler of World Communism has to be #7 in a new human body, but controlled by #8 demon spirit, Satan. He will dominate the Holy Land and thus partake with the first six rulers in afflicting the Chosen People.

Wild caprices, uncontrolled passions, issued into manifest insanity.

Satanic power which will carry him through the final 42 month period. He will dominate the Holy Land and will thereby become partaker with the first six kings in afflicting the Chosen People, as a power not a part of Christendom.

The eighth ruler of the seventh beast empire is the essence of cunning and power of all the beast powers seen by Daniel (*Rev. 13:2, Dan. 7:3-7*). But this is the ruler and system which will also be destroyed during the outpouring of the Bowls of Wrath. This is the blasphemous leader who will form a behind-the-scenes partnership with the false prophet and his United Nations Organization during the final 42 months of this age. Together, they will push the nations in that Organization into conformity with the purposes of the dragon-ruler of communism, the "man of sin," the Anti-Christ, Satan-incarnate in the eighth ruler.

This beast from the "sea" (*Rev. 13:1*), the final ruler of the seventh beast empire (*Rev. 17:10*), is also mentioned in *II Thessalonians 2*, again within the context of Christ's second coming. Much has been written and spoken by man about this Anti-Christ, and much lamentable confusion has resulted from the acceptance of man's interpretation of God's message about the "man of lawlessness." Therefore, the approach here toward the understanding of what God intended to reveal must be a careful one.

Before proceeding, let us again take note of the fact that numerous prophetic Scriptures have more than one fulfillment or application. God knows and declares the ending, even from the beginning, so He is well able to cause from one to several applications to conform to the basic patterns of truth given to us in the Bible (*Isa. 46:10*). God never gives the seeking one more than a part of the picture at a time, nor more than his capacity is ready to contain (*Isa. 28:9-10, I Cor. 13:9, 12*). It would be presumptuous to claim that the part we see is the whole of the matter. The many colors of the rainbow are but a refraction of the *one* central light of the sun. To see the red of the rainbow and then claim that it is the only color of the rainbow would be the utmost foolishness. Similarly, the central light of God's revealed truth in almost any passage of the Scripture can be broken down into more than one application. Not that we have liberty to make what we want out of Scripture, or to force it into a frame of any man's doctrine. We don't (*II Pet. 1:20-21*). But Scripture does teach us not to limit the Holy One of Israel (*Ps. 78:41*), or we will surely miss the full spectrum of Divine Truth. So in this particular approach to *II Thessalonians 2*, the part being presented is certainly not the whole, but the whole must include the part.

"Right dividing" of the Word requires recognition of the context and the primary subject of the text, obviously. The subject here is stated in the first verse as the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The whole passage of *II Thessalonians 2* must be seen in the light of this subject. Note also that the introductory first chapter turns the focus on this primary subject by the references to the revealing of the Lord *with* His mighty angels and to His coming to be glorified *in* His saints (*1:7, 10*). We must therefore read the second chapter entirely within the context of this subject, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This was and is now an important message. Paul wanted the Thessalonian Christians to understand that the day of Christ's coming was not then immediately at hand as some had mistakenly assumed from spurious reports which had been purported to be from Paul (*2:2*). Paul then proceeds to give two important reasons for the delay of the day of Christ's coming again, a delay allowed by God in His overruling providence.

1. That day will not come, except an apostasy, a wholesale falling away, comes first.

2. The “man of sin” must also be revealed *before* that day comes (2:3). Perhaps fifteen to thirty days before the Firstfruits are taken, a “daily” is to be taken away (perhaps the worship at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem) and the abomination that makes desolate set up (*Dan. 12:11*). Then Paul continues with a notation on the worshipful proportions achieved by the “man of lawlessness” after he comes upon the scene (2:4). He reminds the Thessalonians that he previously told them these things.

The next statement becomes the key to a clear understanding of Paul’s divinely inspired progression of thought. He returns to the primary subject of the letter, the coming (revealing, manifesting, showing) of Christ. The primary subject is re-introduced in the words, “and now you know what is restraining (withholding, impeding) Him (His coming); it is so that He (Christ) might be revealed in *His* own (appointed) time.” The subject is Jesus Christ’s coming and being revealed (1:7,10; 2:1) and Paul is helping them to understand why the day of His revealing or coming was not, at that time, near at hand. The falling away had to come first (impeding or holding back the revealing of Christ), that He might *then* be revealed in *His* appointed time. And also, the falling away prepares the way for the revealing of the man of sin. Further, at Christ’s being revealed, this man of lawlessness must previously have been on the world scene in order to be destroyed by “the brightness of His (Christ’s) coming” (2:8).

Those who have garbled this passage have failed to see the continuity of Paul’s subject throughout. They have deviated from it in *verse 6* to make the “he” to be revealed in his time the man of sin rather than the Lord Jesus Christ. They have thus confounded the whole and manufactured a theology completely foreign to the entire tenor of end-time events. The subject is the coming of Christ and *why* His day of revealing is to be held back or impeded. This is further indicated by *verse 7* where Paul explains the reason in these words: “For the mystery of iniquity is already at work.” The “mystery of iniquity” (the hidden pressures of lawlessness) which had already begun to work in Paul’s day within the Church would first have to run its course. It is this mystery of iniquity which causes the falling away, the apostasy, *within the Church*, and it is this same mystery of iniquity which continues to hold back the revealing of Jesus Christ until *His* appointed time (2:6).

In *verse 7*, Paul introduces the force behind the mystery of iniquity by stating, “but it (the revealing) is restrained only until he (Satan) who restrains is taken out from the midst” (literal translation). The word here translated “let” in the King James Text means to hinder or impede. Scripture tells us that Satan is *the hinderer* (1 *Thess. 2:18, Zech. 3:1*). Paul stated that he (Satan), who was already then hindering, would continue to hinder or hold back the day of revealing of Jesus Christ. By and through the mystery of iniquity working within the Church, he would cause a great apostasy to taken place. When seen in this light, it is evident that the theology which makes the Holy Spirit the hinderer, holding back the revealing of the man of sin, is without foundation in any part of Scripture and is completely out of harmony with Paul’s progression of thought in this passage.

But Paul says that he (Satan) who now hinders will continue to hinder, until he be taken out from their midst. How is Satan to be taken out from their midst, and if he is taken out from their midst, how can he be revealed as the man of sin? In *Revelation 12*

we see the spiritual Church in Spirit travail to bring to birth a “*Manchild*” to be caught up to the Throne of God in the upper stratosphere. Immediately following this catching up, Satan is forced out and down to earth (**Rev. 12:9**). It will be somewhere near this time that Satan will know that his time is short (**Rev. 12:12**). Therefore, he will take control of a human being and probably incarnate, in order to make himself manifest (**Jn. 14:30**). His host is described as the son of perdition or destruction (**II Thess. 2:3**) and this is the same term used to describe Judas after Satan used him (**Jn. 13:27, 17:12**). This will be an official who has just died or is nearly at the point of death, one of the top men of the Kremlin. That body will come alive and be healed. This will be the final fulfillment of the deadly wound of the beast being healed (**Rev. 13:3**). Thus shall Satan be revealed in human flesh as the *man* of sin. Manifesting as a *man*, he will personally head the beast empire of communism.

The question of how Satan’s hindering tactics through the mystery of iniquity in the Church will be taken out from their midst is answered in two phases. First, there is the Manchild group and, second, there is the Glorious Church group. Shock will register on the remaining Church after the 144,000 company of the choicest saints has disappeared. All Christians, regardless of denominational or organizational membership or persuasion, will be rudely awakened to the fact that no particular church group is exclusively right or is *the* “chosen” of God. They will realize that all such groups have, in a great measure, been misled and deceived (**Lk. 18:8, Rev. 12:9**). It will become evident that those of the 144,000 company, who have disappeared, were not members exclusively, or even in particular, of any one church group or organization. Some will, conceivably, have had a nominal membership or relation with certain denominations, but by and large they will be found to have been those who shied away from sectarian devotion or participation with any man-dominated organization. Church people will suddenly become aware that it was the somewhat queer “come-outers” who were “fanatically” devoted to their Lord Jesus Christ and who refused compromising entanglements with the organized church, that formed the bulk of those few chosen by the Lord for glorification. In the midst of the shock of that dumbfounding hour, denominational walls will fall among many Christians determined to be true and loyal to Christ. Those will join together in humble and contrite prayer.

Through the secret strategy of the Lord in “breaking through the walls” of the household of the Church (**Lk. 12:39**), the agelong *division* of Christians by the mystery of iniquity will be nullified among the humble (the teachable in Truth). Christ’s prayer that they all become one will have a fulfillment (**Jn. 17:21**). Then in the midst of this new climate of humble and contrite seeking, those of the translated and glorified Manchild company will suddenly begin a series of appearances to selected Christians that remain on earth. They will speak Truth to them such as the Church has not received since the days of the twelve Apostles. And where Truth alone reigns, unmixed with the doctrines and traditions of men, Satan will no longer have the power in their midst to deceive those saints. His power to hinder the revealing of Jesus Christ in and through those saints will be removed from the midst.